

Name: _____ Date: _____

Writing a Summary

A summary is a short retelling of the most important parts of a story. It should include the information that someone would need to know to understand the story, without minor details or your own opinion.

Directions: Complete the summary below, using the prompts in the margins to help you.

Summary of "Swarms of Terror"

"Swarms of Terror" is about _____

1. Begin with a topic sentence that tells what the article is mainly about.

2. What challenges did pioneers face?

Like other settlers during the 1800s, Laura Ingalls and her family _____

4. Describe two problems caused by the locusts and how they affected settlers.

The swarms of locusts caused many serious problems, including _____

3. What big problem does this story focus on?

But in 1875, the Ingalls family and others faced a new threat: _____

5. What happened to locusts' bodies?

Even after locusts died, _____

6. Why did the locusts disappear?

Thankfully, by the late 1890s, the locust swarms disappeared because _____

7. How did Laura share her childhood experiences on the prairie with others?

One way people know about the locust swarms of the late 1800s is _____